

Original of the
L E T T E R

TO THE

Worshipful - --- of the Commons, L.L.D. &c. &c.

OCCASIONED BY

A very extraordinary Use, of the Visitation Power,

I N

**CREWKERN DEANERY, ARCHDEACONRY of TAUNTON, and
Diocese of BATH and WELLS.**

To which are added,

A PREFACE and APPENDIX:

Tending, as well to render the whole Affair more intelligible,
as to account for the Publication of the said LETTER, at
such a Distance of Time, from the Event, to which it was
owing.

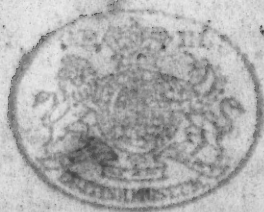
*Turno tempus erit, magno cum optaverit emptum,
Intactum Pallanta—et cum spolia ista diemq;
Oderit—*

VIRG.

L O N D O N:

Printed for R. BALDWIN, at the *Rose* in *Pater-noster-Row*; and
sold by the Booksellers in Town and Country.


1753





T / H E

P R E F A C E.

 H E following Sheets, are no other, than what were handed about, in Manuscript, almost *totidem verbis*, at the Close of the Year, 1753; soon after they were written, and when, the *extraordinary Transaction*, they give an Account of, was fresh in Memory. The same *Form* of a Letter, in which, they made, their original Appearance, it was thought adviseable, for *special* Reasons, not to alter, on their being sent, to the Press: and, what is more material to add, the Author professes, to have had the same *Design* in View, and to have acted, on the same *Principles*, as a Writer then, and a Publisher now. I am moreover assured, he would have been well content, had the Success, attending him, in the *former* Capacity, been such, as to leave no Room, for any Appeal, to the Publick, in the *latter*.

To an *Elucidation* of which Particulars, it is necessary, the Reader, should be informed, that, great as the Author's Detestation and Abhorrence was, of Measures, he was convinced, were *unjustifiable*; yet, he thought of no violent Proceedings, nor, of coming to any open Rupture, on the Occasion: But, the Opportunities he had, of being well informed, from his own Notes, and from those

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of

of his Acquaintance, of the several Steps taken, and of every Incident that happened, in and during the Progress, of this *Visitation*-business, being equal at least to what, any other Person, could pretend to, he looked on it, as a Duty incumbent on him, to give the whole, a Form, such as it now hath; which, when he had done, and it had undergone a proper Examination, the Affair, from Beginning to End, appearing so unaccountable, as, not to be reconciled, to any known Rules of Prudence and good Conduct; it was charitably presumed, by those he consulted with, to have been owing, to Mistake, or to Ignorance rather, of the Laws, relating to ecclesiastical Matters. This Presumption, favouring Mr. Archdeacon's *Integrity*, in the same Degree, it reflected, on his Capacity, to sit and judge, in a Consistorial-Court, was so far indulged, that, it was resolved to wait, in full Assurance, a proper Acknowledgment, together with *Restitution*, of what, had been so unreasonably insisted on, would in due Time, be made, to the Sufferers. It is pretty remarkable, that, this imaginary Notion, of Acknowledgment, and of *Restitution*, in Consequence thereof, was at that Time, almost universally prevalent. I say, imaginary; for, from what followed, the *real* Intention, either then, or afterwards, may well be questioned. In further Proof, of the Author's *Temper* and Good-breeding, it ought too to be remembered, that the Letter, now under Consideration, was, as soon as finished, at his own Request, put into the Hands, of a particular and intimate Friend, of Mr. Archdeacon, at a Juncture, when a Meeting between them was foreseen; to be, by him, *communicated*, in the Manner, he should think proper. Notwithstanding what was then in many People's Mouths, the Author's Vanity, I am satisfied, is not such, as to impute, the then current Report, about *Restitution*, &c. to any Efficacy,

Efficacy, Power or Force, of those his Remarks; neither is it on the other Hand, to be concealed, that Mr. M. the Friend, above spoken of, did acknowledge, to more Persons than one, that, Mr. Archdeacon had been, by him, apprized of the Letter, its Contents, and the Design with which, it was undertaken ! And for every Particular, here related, unquestionable Vouchers can be produced, and such *viva voce* Evidence, to many of them, as is above Exception.

In this State, of Expectance, on one Side, (of what on the other is needless to conjecture) Matters rested, until the Season, in the ensuing Year, for the Episcopal-Visitation, approached. During which long Interval, of many Months, no one Step was taken, by Mr. Archdeacon, to extricate himself out of the Difficulty, wherein he was involved, and to reconcile himself, to his injured Brethren. From this contemptuous Behaviour, on his Part, and a supposed Resentment thereof, on theirs, arose, in all Probability, the Report, of a formed Scheme, to lay the whole Affair, before his Lordship, at the Visitation. Which Design, if any such, in Reality, there was, (for it is not material, to make more minute Enquiries) became impracticable, by the Bishop's being prevented, thro' Indisposition, or other important Avocations, from proceeding, so far, on his Visitation, as to Crewkern. An Accident of some Kind or other having induced Mr. Archdeacon, soon after, when his own Turn of visiting came, to send a Surrogate likewise, in his Room, as the Bishop had done, before him; to this Surrogate, the same Mr. M. already mentioned, Application, in the most decent Manner, was made, to know, what Satisfaction the Clergy were to expect; not without Intimation, it is confessed, that if nothing of that Sort, should, without further Delay, be concluded

on, an Appeal, hitherto, thro' Excess of Candour, suppressed, would certainly be made, to the Publick, from the Press. Should it seem strange, as doubtless it must, to every unprejudiced Person, that, so little Attention, was given, by the Grandees at Wells to an Affair, of so serious a Nature; the Moderation, with which, those affected, by such uncommon Usage, proceeded, will appear commendable, in the same Degree: For, to their Praise be it spoken, until this Period, no publick Effort was made, to do themselves Justice, in any Shape whatsoever. And when afterwards, the Necessity they lay under of acting in a different Manner, was pressing; Mr. Archdeacon's (a) *Irresolution* (to call it by no worse a Name) was such, as to have justified, with all candid Judges, a sharper Course, than this now taken. Let it be duly reflected on, that the Damage, Individuals suffered in their Pocket, by this foul Business, was not great; and, that very Argument, among others *equally* forcible, has been urged, by some *unbinking* Persons, as a Motive, for suffering it, to be passed over, without further Resentment: Even Mr. Archdeacon's Profit on the whole, was said (how true, I know not) to be but inconsiderable; and very inadequate, to the Degree of *Obstinacy*, with which, he seemed determined, to hold, what he had gotten! A Law-Suit on the Occasion, no particular Person imagined himself bound, in Interest or Prudence, to resolve on; and, an Attempt, to engage Numbers, in any such Project, was big with Difficulties. Forasmuch then, as the *Imposition*, *daring* in its *Nature*, and *dangerous* in its *Consequences*, was what stuck with most, and was of hardest Digestion (for, some of the Gentlemen, most zealous for *Restitution*, had, very early, agreed, on such a Way, of disposing of the Money, when

(a) Vid. Appendix Number 1.

when it should be returned, as would have evidenced their Disinterestedness Generosity and publick Spirit) the Press was surely, if not the only, the easiest and properest Method they could have Recourse to. And, it is some Credit, to the present Undertaking, that the Surrogate, applied to, on being assured, how much they were in Earnest, did, tho' not till after making the best Defence, Mr. Archdeacon's Cause would admit of, and, after loosing his (a) Ground by Inches, in the End, seriously promise and engage, in the Name and on the Behalf of his *Principal*, that, the Money in Dispute, should be *refunded*; and (which is no slight Circumstance, attending this Engagement, for better Recollection) in, as publick a Manner, as it had been exacted, even at Mr. Archdeacon's own next Visitation! From what Motives, with what View, and at whose Persuasion, Mr. Archdeacon was prevailed on, to go back, from the Terms, of this Accommodation, by which, his *Infallibility* only was wounded; or whether his Intent, thro' the whole of it, was other, than, thro' Favour of a Treaty, to divert, for a Season, the *impending* Storm; and, after the Example of modern Statesmen, in like Distress, to trust, to the Chapter of Accidents, for what was to come after, I shall not presume to determine. But that, the Clergy, relying, on the Word and Honour of a Gentleman and a Clergyman, their Representative in Convocation, given solemnly and in Presence of so many of his Electors; were, at perfect Ease, in Reference to the promised *Restitution*, so late as the middle of March 1755, appears, from the Copy of a (b) Letter, still extant wrote at the Time, it bears Date, by one, who, as the Letter plainly intimates, bore no inconsiderable Part in the Skirmish.

(a) Vid. Appendix Number 2. (b) Vid. Appendix Number 3.

Skirmish. It would hardly be credited, were the Thing not so notorious, as to have been the Subject of much Conversation, that, this complaisant and obliging Letter, was not answered, until many Weeks had passed; and then, at an accidental meeting of the Partys, no otherwise, than by the Sight, of another Letter, said to have been wrote by a Curate of Mr. Archdeacon, to Mr. M. a Copy of which, when it was afterwards judged fitting, that the whole Affair should be made publick, being applied for, could not, it seems, be had without Mr. Archdeacon's Leave (they are Mr. M's. own Words) previously obtained; which, it is, with Reason, suspected, was wisely, tho' somewhat unmannerly refused: As, the Consequence was too much apprehended, of letting the World see, by indisputeable Proof, how deep and how early, the Design, of evading the expected *Restitution*, any Obligation to the contrary, notwithstanding, was laid! For, as far, as, the Letter related to the *Restitution*, it was one Piece of Chicanry, from Beginning to End! Less is said of it here, as well, for the Reason, just mentioned, as because, Mr. Archdeacon did, at his Visitation in June 1755, propose, a kind of *Restitution*, in much the same Terms, as well as can be remembered. And, from this Æra, an Affront, more gross, if possible, than the former, is to be dated! An Affront, of such a *complicated* Nature as, considered in all its Circumstances, was fitter, to have been, the Contrivance of some Pettyfogging Attorney, than to have had a Dignitary of the Church for its Projector! For, as hath been above observed, Mr. M. had engaged, *Restitution* should be made in a publick Manner, and at the next, *i. e.* The Visitation here spoken of. And in Truth, Conditions less determinate and fixed, than those from Mr. Archdeacon, after what had passed, would not, I believe, have been

been accepted of: At least, there is Room, for a Suspicion, of this Kind, from a memorable Scripture-relation, then and there, made use of and applied! Instead of which, Mr. Archdeacon took Care, in the first Place, to assure the Company, of his being perfectly satisfied, as to his Right, of keeping the Money he had gotten; and then, of his great *Goodness, Condescension and Generosity*, did propose — what? [not to refund, as had been agreed, he should do, at this very Meeting, but] to allow of, the Money received, in Payment, at another distant and future Visitation, as a kind of Favour [for the whole Transaction implied no less] to such, as would *produce*, the Chancellour's *Receipt* and should think fit to *claim* it! How widely different, these Conditions were, from those formerly stipulated, is obvious. For, first: The *sine-qua-non* Condition, of laying their Claim afresh, by *Individuals*, in a more especial Manner, than had been already done, by the Body *in gross*, was manifestly calculated, *in Terrorem*; and would, probably have had the desired Effect, *viz.* an Acquiescence, under the first Loss, preferable, to the being exposed, perhaps for Years to come, to the Resentment, of *so great and powerful a Man, as an Archdeacon!* His former Experience, of the same Men, many of whom, tho' they had, at first, talked big, were afterwards intimidated, by some Means or other, suggested to Mr. Archdeacon, in all Likelyhood, this politick Fetch! Secondly: On a Supposition, that, by *producing* was to be understood, *giving up* [as, no one will presume to say, what was or was not, Mr. Archdeacon's real Intention; and, how far, this yet unexplained Term, was relyed on, as a Corps-du-reserve, in the utmost Extremity to be adventured,] it might have been easily foreseen, and doubtless was, that, the Chancellour's Receipts, were too precious
and

and valuable, to be given up, on any *Consideration*, after the Noise this Affair had made, and the Dispute that had arisen thereon; by those, who were fully satisfied, in the *Legality*, of the Chancellour's *Demand*, and were uneasy, only on Account, of Mr. Archdeacon's *Claim* which was, past Contradiction, *irreconcilable* with the other! To speak freely and impartially, of this Matter—had there been no other Design, than what, was, *prima facie*, visible, in Reference, to these Receipts: I think, a good Reason may be given, [beside that, Mr. Archdeacon's own Receipts, were the *proper* ones, to have been cancelled, on the Return of the Money, for which they had been taken] why, Mr. Archdeacon ought, to have *wished* and *endeavoured*, the Recovery of his own Receipts, back again, rather than those, of the Chancellour, which, by their Continuance where they were, could reflect neither Credit nor Discredit on him. But, it cannot be thought *extraordinary*, after what we have seen, to have actually happened, in the Course of these Proceedings; if, the most favourable Sense, that can be put, on the Word *Produce*, as it related to a *distant* Operation, was liable, to be *undervalued*, or even *distrusted*, by Men, who had been, but too much *trifled* with, hitherto. Thirdly, beside that, the Time, of making *Restitution*, in Mr. Archdeacon's own Way, and on his own Terms, was *now* to be postponed, longer than had been promised, or than, there seemed, any Necessity for; it requires an *Œdipus*, deeply versed in solving of *Ænigmas*, to shew; how, Paschals and Procurations both, which were the Fees in Question, and both which Mr. Archdeacon had received, could possibly, be allowed of, in Payment, at the next, or indeed at any one single Visitation; when both, as every Child knows, are not due, at the same Time; and, therefore, are never paid together, to any Archdeacon,

Archdeacon, whose Custome is to visit twice in the Year; except, in the Case, of an episcopal Visitation, immediately before [when the Archdeacon visits but once] or, in the Case, of an Arrearage, which rarely happens, to particular Persons, and cannot possibly affect Numbers. Lastly, admitting all Mr. Archdeacon's new Conditions, to have been offered *bona fide*, and to have been practicable also; how could it be expected, the Gentlemen would retire, from the advanced Ground, whereon they stood, when so well able to defend it? or receive, *as a Favour*, what, not only themselves, in their Consciences, believed, to have been extorted, in some Sort, by Violence, from them; but what, even their Adversarys, by the Terms of Accommodation, so often mentioned, to have been voluntarily agreed on, had allowed, to be no more than their Due? For, tho' the Writer, of the Letter, above spoken of, with great Candour and good Manners [ill requited, by him, to whom the Letter was sent] did express, some Kind of Doubt, on that Head; considering, the Mode of Speaking and of Writing, among Persons, of Condition and Breeding; his Words are surely not to be taken, in too close a Sense: It being but reasonable, to conclude, Mr. M. would scarce have gone the Length he did, or have engaged so far, without a full Power, after maturely weighing every Thing, from him, under whom, he acted. Indeed, without one Party's disavowing, a Right, the other laid Claim to, which was far from being the Case here; the Money could not have been received back, on the Terms now proposed, but, by an Act, of Injustice, of the same Kind, with that, which originally occasioned all this Bustle: And, as much, or I am misinformed, was remarked, to Mr. Archdeacon, at the Time, the Proposal was made! That, it should be received therefore, with the Contempt,

it deserved; and, the Proposer, after this, be thought so meanly of, as, to be, no longer entitled, to that *Indulgence*, he had so openly, and, in so many Instances, abused; we are not to wonder. It cannot however be said, that, in the Whole or in any Part of, this long and troublesome Dispute; Mr. Archdeacon's Opponents failed, in any one Point, of *Personal* good Manners, towards him: Whilst, a Kind (*d*) of Indignity or Slight, about admitting a Church-warden, at the very Instant I am speaking of, *designedly* put, upon one of those, whom Mr. Archdeacon knew, to be among the Complainants, to whom therefore he seemed too desirous, of shewing, the *Extent* of his Power, in a disputeable Point, all must acknowledge, to have been a very ungenerous and unsuitable Return thereof!

By the *Clue* here given, the Reader will be enabled, without much Difficulty, to satisfy himself, with Regard, to the two Questions, naturally occurring, upon the following Letter, being made publick: *viz.* Why it was not published sooner? and, Why it is published *now*, at such a Distance of Time, from the *Event*, which occasioned it. Nothing further need be added, than, an Assurance, to the Publick, that, the Author, having undertaken this Appeal, as well, in Behalf, of the inferiour Clergy in general, who are more interested therein, than, perhaps they are aware of, as, in View, to the justifying, his own Conduct and that, of some of his Neighbours; was found, to be too much in earnest, to be persuaded or intimidated, whatever Attacks of either Kind were made on him, to a Silence, by which, he apprehended, Religion and the common Rights of Mankind, might, in the End, be, to their Disadvantage, affected!

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(*d*) Vid. Appendix Number 4.





A

LETTER, &c.

DEAR SIR,



WHEN, in a late Letter from hence, I gave you a jocular Account, of the very great Scarcity, of *worthy* and able Clergymen, among us; and of the *supposed* Motives, to keeping so long vacant, an Archdeaconry, of considerable yearly Value; I little apprehended, being, at any Time in the Course of our Correspondence, drawn in, to a Detail of Particulars, like what follows! But, so great is your Power over me, I cannot think burthen some, whatever Task you are pleased, to impose: Nor, dare I plead, real or pretended, Inability, to satisfy, your most earnest Desire of learning what is come, to my Knowledge, in Relation, to the grand Dispute, this long Vacancy first, and as mysterious filling up afterwards, has given Rise to.

But before I begin to be serious, permit me, in Answer, to your —“*Tantæ animis cælestibus Iræ,*” --and, the arch Translation, accompanying it--permit me I say, in my Turn, to offer you, a Roman Thought, of the same Age, nor less apposite, to the Subject; and (a) translated, in a Vein of Humour bearing, a near Resemblance, to your own “*Quicquid delirant reges, plectuntur Achivi.*”

B

As

(a) Vid. Appendix Number 5.

As, I am not a Writer, of the *Cyclican* Stamp, to begin, my Narration, of this *extraordinary* Affair, *above*; so, are you already apprized, or, I am greatly misinformed, by an abler Pen, from *Wells*, of the most minute Circumstances, attending it, as far forward, as to the Middle or End, of *September* last: About which time, the Apparitor, who has, for many Years, officiated, among us, went his Circuit, with the Chancellour of the Diocess's Præcept, citing the Clergy, of this Deanery, *Crewkerne*, to appear, at his Visitation, in the accustomed Place and Manner, on the (*f*) Second Day, of the ensuing Month, *October*!

The Notice, every body conceived, and you must allow, to have been very short; for which, however, the Chancellour, at the Time of his Visitation, gave (*g*) *substantial*, and every Way *satisfactory*, Reasons. As, the Præcept was sealed, and regularly issued, from the Register's Office, at *Wells*; and, moreover, delivered, into the Hands, of every Clergyman, who was curious enough, to inspect it; as, the Apparitor gave an Hint, of the Chancellour's full Resolution, to *excommunicate* every non-attending Minister; and, lastly: As, the Diocesan himself, had, by the same Messenger, sent his *Opinion* that, the Clergy would do right, to attend; no Wonder, if, implicit Obedience was paid, to Orders, which seemed big, with the Marks, of Reason, of Justice, and of Authenticity!

The better to judge of which, you ought, previously, to have been told; how, it was then universally known, no Archdeacon was *installed*: And, for what Reason, the Dean of *Wells*, tho', in the handsomest Manner, [as was confessed, by Mr. Archdeacon

(*f*) Vid. Appendix, Number 6. (*g*) Vid. Appendix, Number 7.



deacon himself, at Crewkerne] refused, to proceed to *Installment*, by Vertue of the Bishop's Instrument, of *Collation* only!

What my own Opinion, may be, of that (*b*) *Collation*, in such Circumstances [for, a *Lapse*, in the Eye of the Law, it most certainly was; which, neither his Grace of Canterbury's Forbearance, or Promise to forbear, taking *Advantage* of, could alter the Nature of, so far, as entirely to supersede, the necessary Forms, or, some of them, as, in other Cases of *Lapse*] is needless to say, especially to one of your *Profession*: Nor, do I make Mention thereof, with any other View, than that, of introducing what follows, in regard, to the Diocesan's *Opinion*, above spoken of.

For, you are to know, this very (*i*) Apparitor, was purposely sent, by a worthy Clergyman, whose Clerk he was, to the Bishop of *Bath* and *Wells*; to desire his Lordship's Advice, how to act, at so extraordinary a Juncture! Nor, is it to be denied, that, the Bishop shewed, his truly Paternal Goodness, in and by, the Advice, he gave: Which, however, was no other, than what consisted with and was founded on, his Lordship's Knowledge, of the Archdeaconry's being *still vacant*; his Knowledge, of the Chancellour's full Power, of visiting, as Vicar-general, during such *Vacancy*; and his Knowledge, of the Chancellour's Præcept, having been regularly issued, in all the Forms, from his own Registry at *Wells*! To which, I must add, [what, cannot be supposed to have been a Secret, to his Lordship] the Design, of having Mr. Hawkins, the Register of the Diocess, personally to attend, on the Chancellour, as, I am told, he did, thro' the whole Archdeaconry.

You

(*b*) Vid. Appendix, Number 8. (*i*) Vid. Appendix, Number 6.

You smile, at the Word, *Excommunicate!* Indeed I cannot take upon me, to aver, *that* Word was made Use of, by the Chancellour himself: That it was, however, is the general Belief. Admitting this to be the Case, you may easily conceive, so terrifying a Threat, from such a Place, as *Wells*, might have some Effect. And true it is: If not from this Apprehension, yet, from a Deference, to the Bishop's sound and wholesome Advice; or, from a due Consideration, of the Nature and Circumstances, of the Case; the Clergy, that is, much the major Part of them, did, as I myself would have done, in the like Situation, they obeyed, the Chancellour's Summons.

Hitherto, I think, all goes fair, in Favour of the *complying* Clergy: But, it is Time, to turn the Tables; and, that, I may not be suspected of Partiality, to let you know, that, in Opposition, to this *abundant* Weight, of Argument; the Apparitor, at the Time of Citation, did produce, a Letter or Copy of a Letter, from the (k) Deputy-register of the Archdeaconry; the Purport of which, was [not to prohibit, the Clergy, *authoritatively*, from obeying, the Chancellour's Citation, but] to *desire*, they would pay, neither *Paschals* nor *Procurations*, to the Chancellour; for that, an Archdeacon [it was not so much as hinted, was, *then* either *installed* or *collated*, but] would *visit* in *October!* It is observeable, of this impertinent Letter, [for such, I shall not scruple to call it, as, it came, from an Underling; was vested, with no *Authority*, but diametrically opposed, to the Diocesan's *Advice*, already mentioned; and, lastly: As, it tended, to seduce those, to whom it was shewn, to Acts of Disobedience, to a legal *Authority*] that, together with it's other Marks of Invalidity, it promised, no *Indemnification*,

(k) Vid Appendix, Number 6.

demnification, Security or Protection, to those, it was intended to *influence*: All which, in a Case, like the present, would certainly have been, the *proper*, and even *necessary*, Contents, of a Letter, to which, it was expected, some Credit should be given. But, the *darkest* and most *exceptionable* Part, of the Story, is yet to be related! It was *intimated* too, by the Apparitor [and, great Stress, I find, to have been laid, on such *Intimation*, which was never, that I have heard of, denied, or even disputed; and which, Mr. Archdeacon, at the Time of his Visitation, took Care, to have remembered, as a Circumstance greatly in his Favour, by a *Question*, relative thereto, put to the Apparitor] that, the Bishop, either *advised* or *allowed* of, (I will not positively say which) shewing, the Deputy-register's Letter, above spoken of, in *the* Manner, was done. Which Things, seemed so absurd and contradictory, that, a Gentleman, who took Notes, of all that passed, could not help observing, and had the Courage, to hint as much, in Mr. Archdeacon's Presence, that allowing all these Letters, Messages, &c. to be genuine and authentick—we must suppose, an eminent Prelate, of too much *Integrity*, to deceive others, and of too great a *Discernment*, to be himself deceived—doing what? as shocking a Consequence, as it may seem, yet a Consequence it is, not to be got rid of—why laying a Trap, for those very Men, it was his Duty, with the utmost Circumspection and Care, to guard, against *Impositions*, of every Kind!

I am not unmindful, thar a Letter, *immediately* from the Bishop, in Substance, not unlike, that I have given an Account of, is said, to have been *shewn*, to the Clergy, of some other Deanerys, in this Archdeaconry, on the Occasion: which, having never seen, I can have but little, to say to; beside, that a further Consideration thereof, is no way material,

material, with Respect to the Deanery of Crewkerne, where, it is not pretended, to have been ever *shewn*. In general, however, to all Questions, asked me, about these Letters, genuine or not genuine, I am ready to answer, in the Words, of *Terence's* Pamphylus, on a less serious Subject "*Tantumne rem, tam negligenter?*" to this Purpose, it was, not *injudiciously* nor *indecently*, replied, to Mr. Archdeacon, at his Visitation; when that Gentleman, had (in Excuse, of the Bishop's declining, to declare himself *authoritatively*, as he might have done, on a *Point*, which to many seemed *dubious*) represented, the Chancellor, as a *captious* and *litigious* Person, whom no one would care, to be *embroiled* with—that, in the same Proportion, as his Lordship knew, or, was but persuaded he knew, the Chancellour's *Disposition*; it became, his paternal Care, to *endeavour*, the securing, his Clergy, from being Sufferers, by it! Which whether, an Underling's Letter, by his Lordship's bare Permission, or, even a *private* Letter, *immediately* from himself, was, in such Circumstances, well calculated, to effect or not, is obvious, to common Apprehension!

Nor do I lay any Strefs, as some were too hastily inclined to do, upon any supposed *Slight*, of this Deanery, Crewkern; in that, they were not favoured, with the same Letter, *immediately* from his Lordship, other Deanerys were: which partial Way of acting, as, his Lordship could have no Grounds for; so had it been, far beneath, that extensive and universal Vigilance, a wise and good Pastor, like his Lordship, could choose, to be distinguished by.

Seriously, my good Friend, I think myself able to decypher, this *uncommon* Transaction, upon other Principles: admitting Mr. Archdeacon, to have been *collated*, as many Days, Weeks or Months, before the Chancellour visited, as some, *in his Interest*, affected,

affected, to give out ; such *Collation*, allowing it to be *regular*, could not, without an *Installment* subsequent thereon, supersede the Chancellour's Power, of visiting, in Quality of Vicar-general : Now, Crewkern Deanery, was visited, by the Chancellour, as already observed, the second Day of *October* : Whereas Mr. Archdeacon, it is well known, was not *installed*, until the fourth Day, of the same Month ! An Attention, to these Dates, clears up the whole Mystery : and, his Lordship may be allowed, to have acted, a *consistent* Part, in the *different* Treatment, *different* Portions, of the same Archdeaconry, met with, from him ; without the least *Imputation*, on his *well-known* Impartiality, and *confessed* Discernment, in judiciously *timing* Things, according to the Exigency of Affairs.

To speak freely, my own Sentiments : As, all *private* and *underband* Ways, of opposing, a Cause or Interest, not to be attacked *openly* and *authoritatively*, without Shame and Reproach ; are, by Men of Understanding and Candour, justly looked upon, as mean, *evasive*, and, generally speaking, *insignificant* too ; I am of Opinion, the Clergy, throughout the Whole of this Affair, were determined, by the Reason and Nature of the Thing, of which, most of them were no incompetent Judges ; and, by the Precept of Office, founded thereon, which they all had visible Demonstration of ; and which, to them, was, undoubtedly, a *sufficient* Warrant, for acting, as they did. Of so little Concern is it, to have a *serious* Answer, given, to a Question, more *gravely* than *wisely* proposed, at Mr. Archdeacon's Visitation : touching the Probability, of the Apparitor, who was only a Clerk of a Parish, his being, as he reported to have been, and, as, on his own Evidence, then and there given, it was proved, he was—so highly
accepted

accepted of, by the Bishop, as, to be trusted, with a verbal (a) Message, of such Consequence, as many believed, the above to be! I might, on this important Doubt, make a shrewd Remark or two; such, however, as are founded on History and common Observation both; did I not apprehend, they might be offensive, to those, I do not accustom myself, to speak or even think, lightly of. Instead thereof, give me Leave, to tell you, a short Story, well known, in the Neighbourhood, of the Place, from whence, I am writing; which is extremely well attested, and which, but for its Appositeness, to the present Occasion, might, for me, have slept, in perpetual Oblivion.

A young Clergyman, was, a few Years since cited, into the ecclesiastical Court, for making use of I should think, a very *proper*, or rather the *only* Method, which seemed practicable, to avail himself, of a Licence, obtained, from the Bishop, to serve a Cure. The Rector lived, at a great Distance, in another County: The then officiating Curate, resided, in a Village, not very handy; to whom, the young Clergyman sent an Account, of his Licence, in *convenient* Time, and, of his Intention, by Vertue thereof, to serve the Cure—and this in a very respectful Manner, by the *Clerk of the Parish*! But, what do you think, was the Issue? Why, upon Complaint of the first Curate, the other received a Reprimand [no Sentence, I dare say, being recorded] and, was ordered, to pay, the Charges of the Court, amounting to several *Shillings* and *Greats*, for which, the following *Reason*, was magisterially given *ex cathedra*, viz. “that, the Clerk of the Parish, being *old* and *infirm* [tho’ he officiated, as such, irreproachably, every Lord’s Day, and, for what I know, continues to do so

still]

(a) Vid. Appendix, Number 6.

still] was not a fit Person, to have been sent on so important an Errand, as that, of removing one Curate and introducing another, into his Place. O *Tempora* ! O *Mores* ! but, you expect I should proceed, in my Narration, from which, I have digressed.

As, you knew the Chancellour well, you are not to be told, his *darling* Foible, was, *Jealousy*, with regard to Power. Money, the World's Idol, could never have *influenced* him, to do, or suffer to be done, where he *presided*, what in his Opinion, was wrong ! And, I verily believe, double the Sum he could have made, of this Visitation, had his Concerns not been managed, by a careless and insufficient Agent, offered to him, from any *Quarter* whatever, would not have prevailed, to make him desist, from proceeding, as he did. In Justice, therefore, to one, who, *can now*, no longer, speak for himself—let it be remembered ; that, with all the Appearance, of *Candour* and *Sincerity*, he condescended, at the Visitation, to justify his Conduct, in a plain but strong and masterly Manner, to every Individual, making Application to him, to be satisfied : And that, so fully admitting some very (a) *extravagant* Proceedings, by him related, to be true, which there is but little Room to doubt of, and, of which an Hint has been already given ; as to leave no Scruple, with his Hearers—whether, he was, at that Time their *legal* Visitor ; whether, he was, a Gentleman of Address, as well as Spirit ; whether, he was, equally willing and able, to take on himself, the whole Trouble and Expence, of disputing the *Point*, with any *future* Claimant. With this View, he offered Receipts, in any *Form*, the Company should desire : And even signed, those Receipts himself, a Thing not *customary*, Mr. H. the Register of *Wells*,

then in Place and attending! And, to this, expressed a Concern, which, I am confident, was not affected at the many Stratagems, made Use of, to involve in Mist and Obscurity, what, had otherwise been clear and intelligible, to the meanest Capacity!

Notwithstanding these, and other Marks, of Uprightness, in all, the Chancellour said or did; the Clergy were not so entirely forgetful of themselves, but that, a (a) proposal was made, by some of them agreeable to that, hereto annexed [for, nothing was *then* put in Writing] to which, much the major Part of the Company assented: but unfortunately, one or two, for Reasons, best known to themselves, disapproving thereof, nothing of this Kind, was perfected: It being rightly judged, that, Unanimity only, could render it *efficacious* to the End designed. I say, unfortunately: For, it is my firm Persuasion, in which, I am not singular, that, had an Agreement, like this been compleated; the Example would, in all Probability, have been followed, thro' the whole Archdeaconry! in which Case, the Chancellour's Visitation, might have closed the Scene, for this Year. It seemed necessary, for me, to lay before you, the Substance, of the Agreement, then in Agitation, from undoubted Authority; to obviate a Report, most industriously propogated, as if a Kind of Association, had been entered into, or was proposed, disrespectful to, and in Prejudice of Mr. Archdeacon. What the Consequence, of such an universal Agreement, might have been, is already hinted: But, the Agreement itself, was, most evidently calculated, for the Security, of the Clergy in general; and, if levelled, at any particular Person, it was rather, at the Chancellour himself! Whom, I must *now* take Leave of; to give, a brief Account, of Mr. Archdeacon's Visitation.

(a) Vid. Appendix, Number 9.

sitation, which happened, somewhat more, than a Month, after the Chancellour's.

As, a Prelude to which, the ever-officious Deputy-register, of the Archdeaconry, did declare, in a publick Place, as I have it, from one present; that Mr. Archdeacon would not prosecute, those who disobeyed his Citation, in the Chancellour's Court [whither, it seems the Chancellor, had, too hastily, given his Opinion, all Suits, on the Occasion, would be brought] but, in his Majesty's Court of Exchequer! Of which Words, the most favourable Construction, that can be made, is—that, whatever were Mr. Archdeacon's own Thoughts, some of his Underlings, hoped, for sufficient Matter, from this Dispute, to work advantageously upon! but, may it not be questioned, if, this Man, in an inferiour Office, had any Authority, for saying, as he did? Perhaps so with Regard, to Mr. Archdeacon, it is doing him but Justice, to say, his *outward* Behaviour, had, much of the Gentleman in it: which, had it been, at the Time, *only put on*, and not natural to him, would have been, but a *necessary* Policy, to *obliterate* any *Impression*, the ill timed Threat, above recited, might have made, to his Disadvantage: as, there were certainly, Persons, at that Meeting, no more disposed to be *bullied*, than capable, of being, easily *over-reached*. His Address—*Si sic pro veritate*—would have been taking enough: As, the *Deference* he paid the Company, after an Endeavour, to explain, the Principles, on which he would be thought, to found his Right [during which Explanation, a marvellous Diffidence, was visible, in the Speaker] and his leaving it formerly, to the Clergy, to act, as they should think proper, did him, real Service. Tho', it ought to be noted, that whilst, the Right and Equity, of his Claim, to visitatorial Fees, already paid, was *debating*, between Mr. Archdeacon and

and some Gentlemen, at the upper End, of the Table ; his *trusty Agent*, was actually *receiving* them, of Gentlemen, at the lower End ! He was however surely ill advised, to produce, two such weak Proofs, as he did, in his own Defence : Unless, he trusted, that the Dexterity, of the same, Under-Register, Attorney-like, would help him out, at a dead Lift in one of them ; and, that the Judgment of the Company, in the other, would be so biassed, by the Sound, of great Names, as, to render, better *Management*, on the Occasion, superfluous, I will explain myself. The Gentlemen were told, of an Act of Parliament, that, would clearly decide, the controverted Point, then under their Consideration ; which was, no other, I think, than that, of the 28th of H. the 8th : And, upon a *particular* Clause thereof, being *culled out*, by the Deputy-Register, which he believed, or pretended to believe, would answer the Purpose, for which it was chosen ; one of the Company, insisted, on the Preamble's being read, which giving an Insight, into the *Intention* of the Legislature, it was afterwards moved, by the same Person, that, the whole Act, should be gone thro' ; by which Caution, this deep-laid Ambuscade was defeated ! for it evidently appeared, to be, the Design, of the Act, not that, they, who had already paid, visitatorial Fees, Tythe, &c. to Visitors or Incumbents, in actual Possession, and, in the *immediate* Exercise, of those Offices, should be obliged to pay them, a second Time [for, if a Second, why not a Third, Fourth, &c. as, such a Case or Cases might possibly happen] but, that he, to whom the *Right* of visiting, receiving Tythe, &c. should, after such former Payments, be *adjudged*, to belong, should recover them, from those, to whom, they had been *wrongfully* paid. And indeed, Instances of this Kind, so often happen, and, the Practice, relative thereto, is so universally known ; that, nothing less, than, the most daring Insolence, of one, inured, by his Profession

fession, to Shuffling, could have withstood, the
 Reproach and Infamy, naturally resulting, from
 the very Mention of this Act, for the Purpose, it
 was mentioned! I have not the Act at present, by
 me; and know too well, the Folly as well as Danger
 of setting Matters, of this Nature, in a false Light,
 before you, to be designedly guilty of it. All I
 have further to add, in Reference to this Artifice,
 the Palpableness whereof, was visible and glaring,
 is; that, the Gentleman, who furnishes me with
 most of the Materials, for this Letter, is, *of Opinion*,
 Mr. Archdeacon himself was *ashamed* of it: Nor was
 it mentioned *afterwards*, at the Visitation, but in
Derision. In Support, of which *Opinion*, I might
 lay before you, as I am well enabled to do, some
Anecdotes, relating to a *Conversation*, previous to
 this Meeting, held, between Mr. Archdeacon and
 two or three, of his *particular* Friends, on the Arti-
 cle, of this very Act of Parliament! But, the Re-
 cital, of one *short* and *memorable* Speech, then ut-
 tered, is sufficient: "That Act, Mr. H--e, is really
 against us, if the Whole of it be considered;" yet,
 you will *naturally* ask, should Mr. Archdeacon
 have stood by, and *suffered*, his Deputy-Register,
 to produce, an Act of Parliament, in the Face of
 the Clergy and in *Support* of his *Claim*, against
 them; by which, he was conscious, as from all
 Circumstances he appears to have been, *that very*
Claim was *defeated*?

The other *Particular*, on which, Mr. Archdea-
 con professed, much to rely, was, an *Opinion* of Sir
 D. R. the Attorney-general; the Substance of which,
 when, I shall have laid before you, from the best
 Information, I can get; you will agree with me,
 that, it is, as material, to determine, the political
 Question, "Who is the true Proprietor, of the
Neutral Islands" as that, now under Consideration!
 Namely: Whether, the (o) Clergy, of *Crewkern*
 Deanery,

sions, for the current Year, to a legal Visitor, at the Time, vested with full Power, ought or ought not, to pay them a second Time, for the same Year, to any Claimant whatever? Or, if any Judgment, is to be made thereof, it must, by Implication, be one, quite the Reverse, of that, it was brought, to establish. For, the Truth is, the Question, as stated, to the best of my Remembrance, supposes Mr. Archdeacon, to be *installed* as well as *collated*, at the Time, the Chancellour visited: On which Supposition, no Doubt, but the Chancellour's *Power* of visiting, in Quality of Vicar-general, and in his own Right, was *superseded*. But, the contrary to this, being true in Fact, as far as regards the Visitation at *Crewkern*, by the Chancellour; what Room is there, for being determined, by an *Opinion*, founded, on a *false* State of the Case: And which, there is all imaginable Reason, for believing, from the known Ability, and Integrity, of him who gave it, would have been greatly different, from what it is, had the words—COLLATED ONLY—OR---COLLATED BUT NOT INSTALLED---been put, in the place of---COLLATED AND INSTALLED---in the last Quære [to which, the others, are introductory only] of the Paper produced, as a true State of the Case, and the Attorney-General's Opinion thereon!

But, I am hastening, to the last and most *interesting* Period, of my Narration: Which, whether you approve or disapprove of, I know, it will not be lightly, nor, without due Consideration. As it would be presumptuous, therefore, in me, to attempt, *biassing* you, either Way; let the Thing speak for itself.

The *good-humoured* Clergy, then, at this Meeting, notwithstanding so much *Reason* and *Justice*, on their Side; and, notwithstanding the Danger, of making *so ill* a Precedent; submitted, in fine, to the unjust

unjust *Onus*, of being taxed, a *second Time*, with unparalleled *Indolence*, not to say, *Insensibility* : Influenced, if not by Mr. Archdeacon's Address and Management, no other than as here represented, assuredly *less*, by his Arguments ; which, were trifling and very unfit, to have been brought, before Men of Sense and Learning ! Thus ended, for the present, calmly and quietly, an Affair, which, in the Hands, of *hot, violent and intractable* Men, might have made, such a *Noise*, as, *ecchoed thro' the Kingdom*, could not have failed, producing, strange and perhaps *unlooked for*, Effects ! Whether, we are, in due Time, to hear *more* of it, becomes not me to guess. The best Part, of what you have, in this Letter, is publickly known *here* ; and, for the rest, when you are pleased, to call on me, unquestionable Vouchers are ready.

Upon the Whole, I am not conscious, of having mis-stated or mis-represented, any one *material* Fact : Nor, have I wanted Opportunities, of well informing myself, as to the several Particulars related : Excepting, that, in regard to the Attorney-general's *Opinion*, it is highly improbable, any Application, from me, would have been successful, to procure a Copy ; and, therefore, it was *prudently* never attempted. I have no *Ill-will*, to any of the Persons concerned --and, if, I have not *overlooked*, some few Occasions, that naturally offered, of setting a Mark, on those, I apprehend, to have been, the *Promoters* or *Abettors*, of this shameful *Imposition* ; Impartiality must own, that, I have softened, many Things, where I saw, the least Room, for so doing ; and, through Candour, entirely omitted others, where, the Nature of my Subject, did not, absolutely require, their being made publick. Together, with a *due* and *proper* *Regard*, to all Persons, vested with legal Power ; I have such an *Attachment*, to the

D

Constitution

Constitution and Laws, of my Country; that even the *Abuse* thereof, shall not make me blind, to its *Necessity* and *Convenience*, when executed, as it ought ever to be, with *Justice*, Moderation, and Impartiality! With all this, I have such a Love of Truth and *Liberty*; such a *Concern*, for the common *Rights* of Mankind; and, such a *Sensibility*, of the requisite *Worth*, *Honour*, and *Dignity*, of Men in *high Stations*; as to lament, from my Heart, the *Occasion*, of this, so long a Letter. The rather, because, an eminent Prelate, whose Character, is *deservedly* in the Estimation, of all good Men, in whose immediate View, all here related, must be supposed, to have happened; did, as I have it, for an undoubted Truth, at his primary Visitation, and, also by Quæres, transmitted, to every one of his Clergy, preparatory thereto, express, a more than common Zeal, to put a Stop, to such *Abuses*, as, he should hear, the spiritual Courts, within his Diocess, were infected with! To the Question, why such Quæres, were not, *distinctly*, *properly* and *copiously* answered, at that Time? I have nothing to say: The Reverend Gentlemen concerned, are to account, for the Omission. Perhaps, for want of a better Excuse, they may choose, to abide, by the *short* and *pithy* Reply, made, by one of their own Body, to whom, the Neglect, was, soon after, objected:---*viz.* That the Bishop's Paper of Quæres, [no very large one, on which, however, the Answers were to be returned] relating, to many Points, equally material with, if not more so, than *this*; to have answered *this*, in the Manner, it ought to have been answered, must have necessitated, the Gentlemen, for want of Room, to say nothing else: An *Imprudence*, it was presumed, not so easily *pardonable*, with his Lordship, as *that* here complained of! *I am, &c.*

C. M. November 20, 1753.

APPENDIX.



A P P E N D I X.

N U M B E R I.



RESOLUTION.] No one will object, to the Consistency, of this Imputation, with the other of *Obstinacy*, which follows, a few Lines after; who, has heard, of the--“*alieni appetens, sui profusus*,” and abundance of such *Characters*, to be met with, in historical Writers, of the first Class. Indeed, it is easily conceiveable, how, a Man may be resolute, not to give up a Point, and, yet perpetually varying, the Measures, by which, he proposes, to defend it: And, in the same Proportion, as, the Point insisted on, is void of Truth, Justice and common Honesty, a Person interested in its Support, will, of Necessity be obliged, to fly, from one Shift to another, daily!

N U M B E R II.

After losing his Ground by Inches.] It was enough taken Notice of *then*, and ought not to be forgotten *now*—that, at the Visitation, where Mr. Archdeacon was represented, by Mr. M. this Gentleman, when applied to, about the *Restitution*, affected, at first, a Kind of Ignorance, or rather, a Want, of proper Instructions, from his Principal, to talk about it: Yet, soon after, offered, to the Clergy's Consideration, what, he averr'd, to be, the Attorney-general's *Opinion*, of the Case! but, in Truth, it was no other, than what, Mr. Archdeacon himself had produced, at his Visitation, *November 1753*, in Vindication, of his *premeditated Claim* [which he was aware, must be opposed] tho' absolutely nothing to the Purpose; the Draught, of the Case, being wholly relative, to the Chancellour's Proceedings, and not to Mr. Archdeacon's Demand, of a se-

cond Payment, of the same Fees, from a Body of Clergy, he was soon, *for the first Time*, to be known to, either, as Mr. S. or Mr. Archdeacon of *Taunton*. And indeed, this Demand, seems to have been, a second and *After-thought*, which, perhaps the Death, of the Chancellour, suggested ! The Inference, to be made from this, is, that Mr. M. came, *prepared* in some Sort, for the *Attack* ; and, by whom, is not to be doubted ! To suspect, that Gentleman, exceeded his Commission, by the Agreement, entered into, will mend the Matter, but little : For, tho' one cannot readily suppose, the Deputy acted, but in Conformity, to his Instructions—yet which ever, of the two Friends, was faulty, makes no *Difference*, with Regard, to those, who were, the Dupes, of their own Credulity, for having trusted either !

N U M B E R I I I .

Copy of a Letter, to Mr. M. mentioned in the Preface.

D E A R S I R ,

R E F L E C T I N G , as I seriously do, on the late unhappy *Grewkern* Affair, and particularly, on those Parts, relative thereto, which fell, more immediately, to your and my Share, at the last Meeting ; I thought it, incumbent on me, preparatory to the ensuing Visitation, to inform myself, how far, the hoped-for *Issue*, in the Manner proposed, and for which you, in Mr. Archdeacon's Behalf, engaged, may be depended on—Were you a Principal in the Business, I should ask, no further Security, than your Word, already given ; but, forasmuch, as the Engagements of Deputies, cannot, with Candour, be understood, other than conditional, you'll easily excuse this Freedom—Instead of waiting on you personally, however inclined, so to do, I apprehend, an *Eclaircissement*, on so tender a Subject, may be, more properly made, in the epistolary Way ; as, whatever Letters pass, will be, standing Evidence, to be, occasionally, made Use of, on either Side, should Matters, not terminate, as happily, as I wish they may. In this Light, I apprize you, I must look on, whatever you write me ; to be produced, to my Brethren, equally

equally concerned, with myself; or, to others, whom, it may be necessary, to make acquainted, with *the* several Steps, already taken, or hereafter to be taken, in our Justification: In such a Light, you'll look, on this Letter—as coming, however, from one, who desires, at all Events, to be believed, &c.

C. M. *March*, the 18th 1755.

NUMBER IV.

Whilst a Kind of Indignity or Slight. That nothing worse than the real Truth, may be here suspected, the Reader is presented, with the whole Affair. At Mr. Archdeacon's Visitation, a Churchwarden presenting himself to be sworn, and, an Objection having been made, to swearing him, by his Partner, in the Office, because he lived, out of the Parish, for which he was to serve, and consequently could not properly attend his Duty [an Objection, it is presumed, ever well-grounded, but, the more confidently urged *now*, as it had *formerly* been admitted, by Mr. Archdeacon's immediate Predecessor, to be, of *Weight* enough, to set aside, this very Person] that Circumstance was overlooked, for the Merit of the Man's Name, as should seem [for he had certainly no other] and it was declared, that, "the allowing or disallowing, of a Churchwarden, in a Case of this Nature, was solely in Mr. Archdeacon's Breast!" Which, if Law or not, is left to better Judges, to determine. Were I to give the Churchwarden's Name, or the Name, of him, who made Application, to Mr. Archdeacon, for this—Favour; both of the same Stamp, and of the same *respectable* Family; the Doubt, if there be any remaining, with what View, it was done, would immediately vanish!

NUMBER V.

The Translations hinted at, however tolerable in a Letter, before printed—since its Publication, better become this Place, and were, as follow:

I.

Are holy Men, so *worldly* given,
On Earth, to scheme, for ought—but Heaven!

II.

II.

The *Wrongs*, one *Sov'reign* does another,
Light on the *Subject*, and no other !

NUMBER VI.

An authentick Memorandum, respecting the Chancellour's Visitation.

The Chancellour's Precept was served, on the 30th Day, of September, two Days before the Visitation—a Letter, or Copy of a Letter, was also then shewed, from Mr. Hoare, Deputy-register of the Archdeaconry, desiring Notice might be given, to the Clergy, not to pay, Paschals or Procurations to the Chancellour; for that, an Archdeacon would visit, in *October* ! *Spurl*, the Apparitor, at the same time, related, that, on his making, the Bishop of *Bath* and *Wells*, acquainted, with the Orders he had received, about serving the Chancellour's Præcept—he, the said Bishop, advised him, to serve it—moreover, that having been directed, by the Reverend Mr. *Blake*, to apply, at *Wells*, for his Lordship's Advice, what the Clergy should do, on the Occasion; his Lordship's Advice was, that, they ought, to pay Obedience, to the Citation, or Words to that Effect—the Inconsistency, of which Letter, and Advice, with each other, was observed !

NUMBER VII.

Substantial and satisfactory Reasons] The Reader may easily account, for the Author's, not being, more explicit on this Head : The Proceedings, at a certain Place, about the Time here spoken of, having been so, out of Measure, extravagant, according to Mr. Chancellour's Relation—and the much to be lamented Death, of the Relator, having made, a further and more particular, Detail thereof, inconsistent with the Rules of good Manners and Prudence both !

NUMBER VIII.

With regard, to this Collation, which, Mr. Archdeacon then built so much on, as to think, nothing else, to have been necessary [tho' the Dean of *Wells*, a competent Judge,

Judge, thought otherwise] previous to an Installment, or even without one, as should seem, by his instancing the Statute of Pluralities, not more *happy* in this, than, in the other *Proofs*, by him given—to a full Exercise of the Archdeaconal Power; it was well remarked, to his Face, that, the Bishop of *Bath and Wells*, even whilst this Dispute was on Foot, and so late, as in the Beginning of the Summer 1755, had, by Implication and natural Consequence, decided, in Favour of the Clergy, against his Son-in-law! his Lordship having *collated*, the Patron's Friend, to a Living, in the Neighbourhood, of the Place, from whence I write, *lapsed* under the like *Engagement*, it is presumed, as in the other Case: A Thing surely that very frequently happens. Now, if, in Regard to the *lapsed* Archdeaconry, the Archbishop's *Fiat*, or, something, of that Kind, was not necessary; neither was, the Bishop's *Collation*, to the Rectory here spoken of, necessary: The Patron's *Presentment*, in the latter Instance, being, on the same Footing with, and as sufficient for the Purpose, as, the Bishop's *Collation*, in the former. And, tho' it was *seriously* urged, upon the Observation being made, [for drowning People, 'tis said, will catch at Straws] that, as to the *Living*, a *Collation* might have been thought of, preferable to a *Presentment* and *Institution* thereon, in order, to favour, the Incumbent's *Pocket*; beside, that there is Room to doubt, this Way of *Collation*, being less expensive, than the other; yet, supposing it was so, few Persons, I am satisfied, for Reasons, *obvious enough*, will give Credit, to that Consideration's, being the *sole* Motive, to such a Procedure!

N U M B E R IX.

Copy, of what was proposed, to be agreed on, at Mr. Chancellour Eyre's Visitation: As set down, in Writing, the Day following.

Crewkern, October 2, 1753.

AT a Visitation, held here, this Day, by the Worshipful Mr. Eyre, Chancellour of the Diocese; it was, the unanimous Opinion, of the Clergy, then and there present, which, it is presumed, the Absent will approve of; to adhere to, abide by, and acquiesce in, a Promise of
Indemnification,

Indemnification, given by Mr. Chancellour, in Regard to certain Fees, called Paschals and Procurations, by him, claimed and received: And this, because of any subsequent Claim or Claims, of the same Kind, and for the same Year, which may possibly be made, on the Clergy, by Vertue, of the Archdeaconal Power. This Agreement, however, is not meant, as, in the least, reflecting on, or lessening our Regard to, any Archdeacon, already made, or, to be made; or, as tending, to determine, the respective Rights, of Chancellour and Archdeacon; or, in fine, to preclude, the Clergy or any of them, consenting hereto, from taking such Measures, as, to them, or any of them, shall seem adviseable; in Case, on any such Archdeaconal Claim being made, the said Chancellour should, after proper Notice, given him thereof, refuse or neglect, to contest, at his own Charge, the disputable Point; or, as a Plea for declining the said Contest, to refund such Fees, to him now paid, as must *then* be understood, to have been received wrongfully, by Mistake or Misapprehension, and in Prejudice of another!

P O S T S C R I P T.

AFTER the foregoing Sheets were sent to the Press, the Author had transmitted to him [with a very extraordinary Letter accompanying it] a Paper—said to be—“*A State of a Case and an Opinion thereon,*” by which, tho’ he is more fully convinced, than ever, that no Conclusion can be drawn, from the said Opinion, favourable to the Purpose, for which it was produced—he is put under an Obligation to acknowledge himself, set right, in another particular,, which the underwritten, Erratum and Amendment, point to——Page 16, Line the 24th, instead of *last Quære*—read *last Quære but one.*

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